

On the Combinatorics of Crystal Graphs

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Paper: `arXiv:math.RT/0509200`

Related papers: `arXiv:math.RT/0309207`, `0502147`

Also available at: <http://math.albany.edu/math/pers/lenart>

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Positive and negative roots: $\Phi = \Phi^+ \cup \Phi^-$.

Simple roots: $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r$; form a basis of V .

Simple reflections: $s_j := s_{\alpha_j}$.

Weyl group:

$$W = \langle s_\alpha : \alpha \in \Phi \rangle = \langle s_i : i = 1, \dots, r \rangle.$$

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Example. Type A_{n-1} .

$$V = (\mathbb{R}\varepsilon_1 \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbb{R}\varepsilon_n) / \mathbb{R}(\varepsilon_1 + \dots + \varepsilon_n).$$

$$\Phi = \{\alpha_{ij} = \varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_j : 1 \leq i \neq j \leq n\} = \Phi^\vee.$$

$$W = S_n, \quad s_{\alpha_{ij}} \text{ is the transposition } t_{ij}.$$

Weights and dominant weights

$$\Lambda = \{\lambda \in V : \langle \lambda, \alpha^\vee \rangle \in \mathbb{Z}, \alpha \in \Phi\}.$$

$$\Lambda^+ = \{\lambda \in \Lambda : \langle \lambda, \alpha^\vee \rangle \geq 0, \alpha \in \Phi^+\}.$$

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Alcoves

Hyperplanes $H_{\alpha,k} = \{\lambda : \langle \lambda, \alpha^\vee \rangle = k\}$ ($k \in \mathbb{Z}$).

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Alcoves: connected components of $V \setminus (\bigcup H_{\alpha,k})$.

Fundamental alcove:

$$A_0 = \{\lambda \in V : 0 < \langle \lambda, \alpha^\vee \rangle < 1 \text{ for } \alpha \in \Phi^+\}.$$

2. New combinatorial model for characters (joint with A. Postnikov)

Let \mathfrak{g} be a complex semisimple Lie algebra with root system Φ . For $\lambda \in \Lambda^+$, we have an **irreducible representation** V_λ . Its **character** can be written

$$ch(V_\lambda) = \sum_{\mu \in \Lambda} c_\mu e^\mu \quad (c_\mu \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}),$$

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Let $F_i \subset H_{\beta_i, k_i}$: common wall of A_{i-1} and A_i .

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λ -chain (of roots): $\Gamma = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_l)$.

Admissible subsets $\mathcal{A}(\lambda) = \mathcal{A}(\lambda, \Gamma)$:

$J = \{j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_s\} \subseteq I = \{1, \dots, l\}$ such that

$1 \triangleleft r_{j_1} \triangleleft r_{j_1} r_{j_2} \triangleleft \dots \triangleleft r_{j_1} \dots r_{j_s} =: \kappa(J)$ (key).

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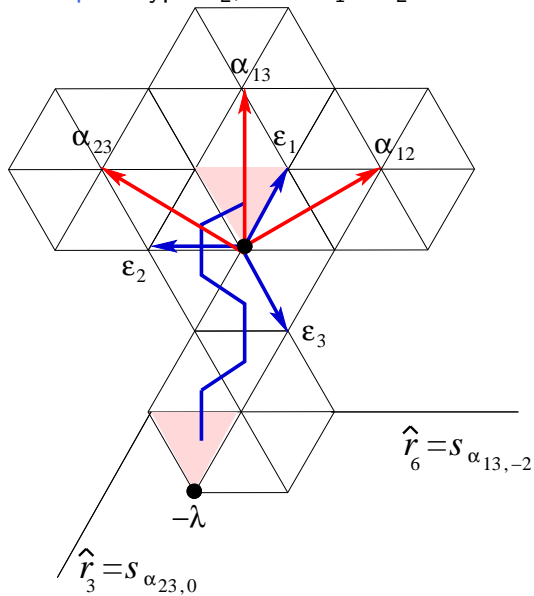
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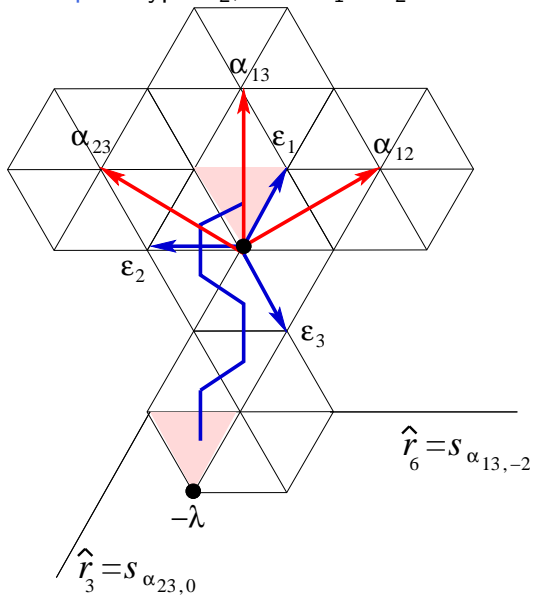
Theorem. (L. and Postnikov) *The irreducible character $ch(V_\lambda)$ of \mathfrak{g} can be expressed as*

$$ch(V_\lambda) = \sum_{J \in \mathcal{A}(\lambda)} e^{\mu(J)}.$$

Example. Type A_2 , $\lambda = 3\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2$.

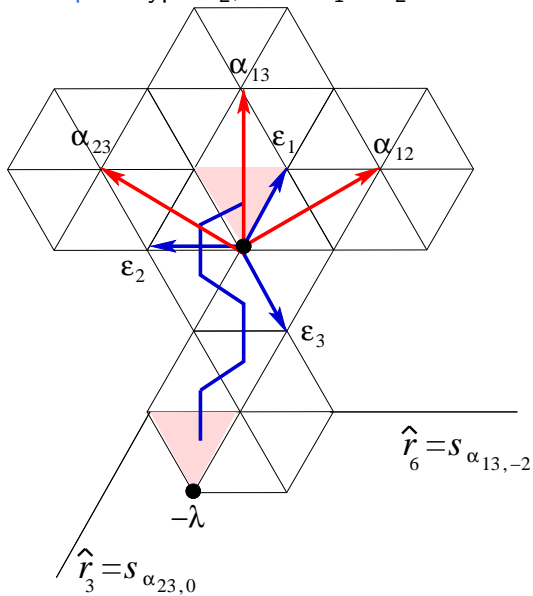


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$J = \{6\}$ forbidden: $e < t_{13} = 321$.

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It is given by the **crystal graph** structure of the corresponding **canonical basis**. Minimum $J_{\min} = \emptyset$ and maximum J_{\max} .

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Fact: $\mathcal{A}(\lambda)$ is a **self-dual** poset, i.e. there is a bijection $\eta : \mathcal{A}(\lambda) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(\lambda)$ such that

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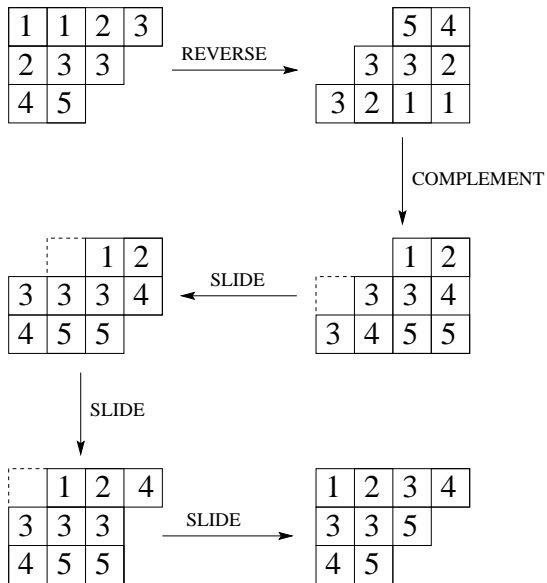
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Goal: describe η explicitly.

In type A , it is given by Schützenberger's **evacuation** on semistandard Young tableaux (Berenstein and Zelevinsky).

Schützenberger's evacuation



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STEP 1 (REVERSE-COMPLEMENT)

Define a bijection

$$J \in \mathcal{A}(\lambda, \Gamma) \mapsto J^{\text{rev}} \in \mathcal{A}(\lambda, \Gamma^{\text{rev}}),$$

such that

$$\mu(J^{\text{rev}}) = w_o(\mu(J)).$$

Example.

Type A_2 , $\lambda = 4\varepsilon_1 + 2\varepsilon_2$, $J = \{2, 4\}$,

$$\Gamma = (\bar{1}, \bar{2}, \bar{3}, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) \\ \Gamma = (\alpha_{12}, \alpha_{13}, \alpha_{23}, \alpha_{13}, \underline{\alpha_{12}}, \alpha_{13}, \underline{\alpha_{23}}, \alpha_{13})$$

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Yang-Baxter moves. Let Γ, Γ' be λ -chains related as follows:

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Theorem. (L.) *There is a bijection*

$$J \in \mathcal{A}(\lambda, \Gamma) \xrightarrow{YB} J' \in \mathcal{A}(\lambda, \Gamma')$$

such that $J \setminus [i, j] = J' \setminus [i, j]$, $\kappa(J) = \kappa(J')$, $\mu(J) = \mu(J')$.

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Let $\Gamma^{\text{rev}} = \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, \dots, \Gamma_k = \Gamma$ be related as above. We have

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Theorem. (L.) *We have* $J^* = \eta(J)$.

Example.

$$J^{\text{rev}} = \{\bar{1}, 2, 4\}$$

$$\Gamma^{\text{rev}} = \begin{matrix} \bar{1} & \bar{2} & \bar{3} & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ (\underline{\alpha_{12}}, & \alpha_{13}, & \alpha_{23}, & \alpha_{13}, & (\underline{\alpha_{23}}, & \alpha_{13}, & \underline{\alpha_{12}}), & \alpha_{13}) \end{matrix}$$

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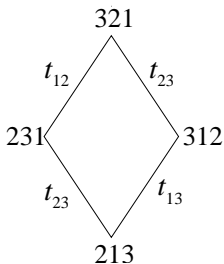
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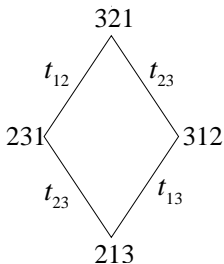
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5. Related results

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2. generalization of the model to complex symmetrizable Kac-Moody algebras, i.e., infinite root systems (character formula, Littlewood-Richardson rule, and crystal graph structure);
3. combinatorial construction of the commutator in the category of crystals, i.e., the isomorphism between the crystals $A \otimes B$ and $B \otimes A$.

(1) and (2) are joint with A. Postnikov.